



State of Utah
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

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February 22, 1994

Mr. Lionel V. Koon
Ecology Mining Company
6985 Union Park Center, Suite 545
Midvale, Utah 84047

Re: Review of Plan of Operations, Ecology Mining Company, Deer Trail Mine,
M/031/005, Piute County, Utah.

Dear Mr. Koon:

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (Division) has received a copy of the Ecology Mining Company (EMC) Plan of Operations for the Deer Trail Mine. This plan was forwarded to us by the Fishlake National Forest Service and received on January 18, 1994. The Division has also received letters from the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management and the Division of Water Quality asking EMC to submit additional information. Our preliminary review of the application also indicates that it is incomplete. Additional detailed information will be required before we can perform an in-depth technical review of the application. Therefore, the Division will temporarily suspend its technical review until we receive a copy of the revised permit application (plan of operations) containing the supplemental information requested by the other regulatory agencies (USFS, BLM, DWQ).

It is important to mention that our initial review of this application indicates that this will likely qualify as a large mining operation. A large mining operation is one that exceeds five acres of surface disturbance. In a letter to Bennett Black of the Beaver Ranger District, dated December 30, 1993, you assert the plan is for a small mining operation. The plan states EMC will be mining five acres *per year* with concurrent reclamation. Division Rule R647-4-111.13.11 states that revegetation shall be considered accomplished when it has achieved 70 percent of the premining vegetative ground cover and has survived three growing seasons. Land that has not yet met this revegetation standard is partially reclaimed and still regarded as disturbed. After one year of operations, EMC's projected mining-related disturbances will exceed five acres, therefore this project will qualify as a large mining operation. Concurrent reclamation may reduce the amount of reclamation surety EMC will be required to post or maintain.



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Mr. Lionel V. Koon

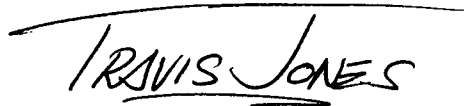
M/031/005

February 22, 1994

We have enclosed a Notice of Intention to Commence Large Mining Operations (FORM MR-LMO). You may use this form, or provide us with a copy of the revised Plan of Operations that will be submitted to the USFS and BLM. Please be advised that the Utah Mined Land Reclamation Act (MLRA) applies to mining activities conducted on *all* lands within the state (federal, state and private). The application filed with this office must include all of the proposed mining activities regardless of land and mineral ownership. To receive Division approval, the plan must adequately address all of the items required by the interpretive rules of the MLRA.

If you have any questions please call me or Wayne Hedberg at (801) 538-5340.
Thank you for your cooperation in this permitting action.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "TRAVIS JONES". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the name and a small flourish below the last name.

Travis W. Jones
Reclamation Hydrologist

jb

Enclosure

cc: Kiran L. Bhayani, Division of Water Quality
Bennett W. Black, USFS, Beaver Ranger District
Dave Henderson, BLM, Sevier River RA
Minerals staff

M031005